

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: July 19-20, 2006

Reference No.: 2.2b.
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

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Ref: **SUMMARY – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, STATE ROUTE 24 IN
ALAMEDA/ CONTR COSTA COUNTY –ADD TUNNEL IN OAKLAND**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at the July 2006 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 04-ALA-24, PM 4.2/6.2, 04-CC-24, PM 0.0/2.3, Route 24 in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties – Add tunnel near Oakland (DEIR).

PROGRAMMING:

This project is not fully funded. Environmental and project development are fully funded through a combination of Interregional Improvement Program funds, Regional Improvement Program funds, Traffic Congestion Relief Program, and local funds for a total of \$40,000,000. Additional funds are expected from Regional Measure 2, County Measure J, and a federal transportation reauthorization earmark. The total estimated project cost is \$433 million. Assuming funding is available, construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2007-08.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

Alternatives considered for the proposed project include:

- Two-lane tunnel north of the existing bores (Alternative 2N). Alternative 2N would include the construction of a new tunnel with two westbound through lanes and one standard and one non-standard shoulder on an alignment north of the existing tunnels.
- Three-lane tunnel north of the existing bores (Alternative 3N). Alternative 3N would include the construction of a new tunnel with three westbound through lanes and standard shoulders on an alignment north of the existing tunnels.
- No- Build Alternative.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Construction Impacts
- Biological resources – potential impacts to habitats, sensitive species and wetlands
- Noise
- Aesthetics

An Environmental Impact Report is being prepared due to extensive community concern and interest in the project.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Protective measures for existing Oak Trees during construction.
- Native grasslands will be fenced off during construction.
- Replacement planting and revegetation program.
- Conduct pre-construction surveys for special status wildlife, establish construction windows.
- Consult with Corps on wetland impacts and mitigation requirements.
- Noise barriers in the form of sound walls, earth berms or combination will be considered for construction.
- Landscaping to be installed to cover/screen views of new sound and retaining walls.
- Design new sound and retaining walls to complement existing tunnel structures or surrounding environment, as appropriate.

Attachment

Figure 1.1.2-1: Project Area

